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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest for this appeal and the present application is International Business Machines Corporation, by way of an Assignment recorded in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at Reel 011720, Frame 0530.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no prior or pending appeals, interferences or judicial proceedings, known to Appellants, Appellants' representative, or the Assignee, that may be related to, or which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing upon the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22 are on appeal.

Claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22 are pending.

Claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22 are rejected.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, are canceled.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No Amendment After Final Rejection has been filed which would have proposed amendments to the claims.

A Response (After Final Rejection) was filed on June 20, 2006 in which appellants made arguments but no claim amendments were proposed.

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In an Advisory Action mailed on July 20, 2006, the Office contended that the request for reconsideration does not place the application in condition for allowance because, according to the Examiner, the cited prior art of record renders the claimed invention unpatentable.

A Notice of Appeal was filed on August 21, 2006.

An Attachment to Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review was filed on August 21, 2006. The Office has not responded to the Attachment.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The invention of **claim 2** is directed to a text entry dialog box system (p. 6, l. 22 - p. 7, l. 14, Figs. 4, 5) for use with a display device, data input means including pointing means, and processor means for executing an application program, and that displays on a screen of said display device a dialog box (62, Fig. 4) into which an associated user enters data during execution of said application program. The subject text entry dialog box system (p. 10, l. 5 - p. 12, l. 16) comprises a text entry space (64, Fig. 4) in a dialog box displayed on said screen of the display device for free-form entry of text items into the system by the associated user; a memory (82, Fig. 5) for storing previously entered text items which were previously entered into the text entry space by the associated user; means for selectively displaying a selection button (70, Figs. 4c, 4d) on the screen of the display device in association with the dialog box (62, Fig. 4) for selection by the pointing means, the selection button (70, Figs. 4a, 4d) being displayed solely when (90, 92, Fig. 5) the memory contains at least one previously entered text item (66, Figs 4b, c, d) (p. 12, l. 9-16); and means for displaying a list (72, Fig. 4d) of

the previously entered text items stored in the memory responsive to selection of the selection button by the associated user.

The invention of **claim 8** is directed to a computer implemented method (p. 7, l. 15 - p. 8, l. 10, Figs. 4, 5) for facilitating input of text by an associated user using a dialog box on a screen of a display device that is connected to said computer. The method (p. 12, l. 17 - p. 14, l. 12) comprises (i) initializing a memory as empty (84, Fig. 5); (ii) displaying a text entry section of a dialog box on the screen of the display device (86, Fig. 5); (iii) counting entries stored previously in the memory (88, Fig. 5); (iv) displaying a drop-down list selection button on the screen of the display device only if the counting produces a value greater than zero (92, Fig. 5) (p. 12, l. 9-16); (v) receiving a typed text entry (100, Fig. 5) from the associated user via the text entry section of the dialog box; (vi) updating the memory by adding a new entry corresponding to the typed text entry (102, Fig. 5); and (vii) repeating the displaying (86, Fig. 5), counting (88, Fig. 5), and displaying (92, Fig. 5) at least once.

The invention of **claim 21** is directed to a graphical user interface text input dialog (p. 8, l. 11 - p. 8, l. 23, Figs. 4, 5). The dialog (p. 10, l. 5 - p. 12, l. 16) is a drop down box system including a free-form text entry portion (64, Fig. 4) displayed on an associated display device for receiving a free-form text entry from an associated user; a memory (82, Fig. 5) storing free-form text entries previously entered by the associated user into the free-form text entry portion; a drop-down list selection button (70, Figs. 4c, 4d) displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion only when (90, 92, Fig. 5) the memory contains at least one previously entered free-form text entry (p. 12, l. 9-

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16); and a drop-down selection list portion (72, Fig. 4d) displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion responsive to activation by the associated user of the drop-down list selection button (70, Figs. 4c, 4d), the drop-down selection list portion listing the previously entered free-form text entries (66, Fig. 4c) stored in the memory (70, Figs. 4c, 4d) for selection by the associated user.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The following grounds of rejection are presented for review:

Claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Word 2000, copyright 1983-1999 by Microsoft Corporation (hereinafter "MS Word") in view of William B. Hayes *Using PowerBuilder 6*, published by QUE Corporation in 1997 (hereinafter "PowerBuilder 6").

VII. ARGUMENTS

A. All Pending Claims In General Would Not Have Been Obvious Over MS Word in View of PowerBuilder 6

1. The Present Application

The present application relates to an improved free-form text entry box with a drop-down arrow for accessing previous text entries. One significant improvement over systems of the prior art is the ability to display the drop-down arrow only after a first text entry has been made. This way, when first encountering the box, the user is not misled into believing it is a list box with no free-form entry capability.

2. Prosecution Background

Initially, the Examiner rejected all claims based on a MS Word list dialog window that was a drop-down list having the down-arrow always displayed. In the current, second Office Action, which has been made final, the Examiner has withdrawn all anticipation rejections based on MS Word alone, and has asserted obviousness rejections based on a combination of MS Word plus PowerBuilder 6.

The Examiner clearly acknowledges in the record that MS Word fails to disclose the selective display of the down-arrow (i.e., "selection button") only when previous text entries are stored in memory. The Examiner cites PowerBuilder 6 as showing this aspect, stating that:

PowerBuilder recites: *"Always Show Arrow: The Always Show Arrow checkbox always shows the arrow that opens the list box. If Always Show Arrow is unchecked, the arrow is shown only when the column has focus."* PowerBuilder 6 discloses conditional program execution related to visibility of the arrow.

PowerBuilder 6 further discloses the conditional program execution of the visibility of controls in relation to the volume of data in the memory of the list box on page 2. PowerBuilder 6 recites: *"Disable Scroll: If Disabled Scroll is checked, the scroll bar will always be visible but will be disabled when you can access all the items without scrolling. If this property is not checked, the scroll bar will be displayed only if necessary, based on the number of items and the height of the listbox."*

Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill, at the time the invention was made to combine the dialog box visibility controls of the PowerBuilder 6 GUI builder to create MS Window dialog boxes with smart visibility features in order to provide dialog box objects with the ability to supply information in a more intuitive manner.

Accordingly, in the instant Appeal, claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MS Word in view

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of PowerBuilder 6.

3. Response to the Rejections in General

As a threshold point, the MS Word dialog windows applied in the present Office Action are cumulative to the background prior art and to the references of record. The Office Action states:

Figure 5 is the Find and Replace box available from the Edit menu, where the user has not yet entered any search items. Figure 5 discloses a text entry space in a dialog box displayed on a screen of the display device for free form entry of text by the user.

...

MS Word fails to disclose the selective display of a selection button (i.e., the show-list-button) associated with the dialog box, where the selection button is visible when at least one text entry is stored in memory. In the examples described above the show-list-button is always displayed.

Office Action at page 3 (underscores added).

Thus, the cited dialog window of FIGURES 5-7 merely shows what the Background of the present application previously described as prior art – a free-form text entry dialog box with drop-down list of prior text entries, in which the drop-down list button is always displayed. Such dialog boxes are confusing particularly to novice users who are likely to believe it is a pure drop-down selection box. Those users are further confused when operation of the drop-down list button fails to provide a list of selectable entries. Confused users may also fail to recognize the free-form text entry option (which is the only viable option upon initially opening the dialog window) and may therefore fail to successfully interact with the dialog box, or may be substantially delayed in successful interaction due to the aforementioned confusion.

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PowerBuilder 6 does not help alleviate the confusion because it only provides for certain selectively displayable selection buttons. The Office Action notes:

PowerBuilder 6 discloses dialog box controls that have intelligence built into them wherein the controls are conditionally displayed based upon the volume of items in memory. PowerBuilder 6 discloses controls built into the drop down box selection button (the arrow) on page 3. PowerBuilder recites: *"Always Show Arrow: The Always Show Arrow checkbox always shows the arrow that opens the list box. If Always Show Arrow is unchecked, the arrow is shown only when the column has focus."* PowerBuilder 6 discloses conditional program execution related to visibility of the arrow.

PowerBuilder 6 further discloses the conditional program execution of the visibility of controls in relation to the volume of data in the memory of the list box on page 2. PowerBuilder 6 recites: *"Disable Scroll: If Disabled Scroll is checked, the scroll bar will always be visible but will be disabled when you can access all the items without scrolling. If this property is not checked, the scroll bar will be displayed only if necessary, based on the number of items and the height of the listbox."* So, if the listbox is set to a height equivalent to less than one line of text, and the memory is empty, then the scroll bar would not be displayed. Furthermore, in this example, if the memory holds one or more text items, the scroll bar would be visible. PowerBuilder 6 discloses selectively displaying a text entry box control, wherein the selective displaying is based upon the items stored in memory.

Office Action at pages 4 (underscores added).

The proposed combination lacks motivation because it fails to recognize the problem that is solved by the present application. The present application is one where the recognition of the problem is an important aspect of inventiveness. Obviously, a GUI interface can be made to selectively display a down-arrow, such as to supply information in a more intuitive manner. It is the recognition of potential for confusion in displaying the down-arrow in a modified free-form text entry box before any text entry

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has been made, which motivates the improvement disclosed in the present application. Nothing in either MS Word or PowerBuilder 6 recognizes this potential for confusion, and so nothing in the references or their combination would motivate the skilled artisan to make the improvement claimed in the present application.

The Examiner states that PowerBuilder 6 discloses selectively displaying a text entry box control, based upon the number of items in memory. If the listbox is set to a height equivalent to less than one line of text, and the memory is empty, then the scroll bar would not be displayed. Furthermore, in this example, if the memory holds one or more text items, the scroll bar would be visible. Appellants argued earlier and argue again now that while PowerBuilder 6 displays a form of a control button, the scroll bar control button alone without prior text input does not indicate to the user the input functionality associated with the text entry box. In other words, the presence of a scroll bar alone does not indicate to users that text can be entered into another associated text box. The scroll bar provides no invitation to the user to enter text into any text box but rather it simply invites the user to select from the items in the list presented. This is in stark contrast with embodiments of the present invention which provide a free-form text entry dialog box, which to a user appears as a conventional text box (as discussed with reference to the prior art). In addition, and only when appropriate, the free-form text entry dialog box includes a drop-down arrow indicating to a user whether previous entries are available, without confusing the user into thinking that new or original entries can be made into that text entry box.

With respect to the MS Word reference, the first example relates to showing a selection arrow upon focus. Such a selective displaying, even if incorporated into the cited MS Word dialog box, would not solve the problem of user confusion. It would

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merely delay the user's confusion until he or she focuses the mouse pointer onto the dialog box. The second example relates to a listbox which does not provide free-form text entry – hence, the Office Action's characterization of this example as disclosing "selectively displaying a text entry box control" is inaccurate.

None of the previously or newly cited portions of MS Word, PowerBuilder 6, or their combination, disclose or fairly suggest the features of claim 2 (at least the feature "means for selectively displaying a selection button on the screen of the display device in association with the dialog box for selection by the pointing means, the selection button being displayed solely when the memory contains at least one previously entered text item" is not disclosed), claim 8 (at least the feature "displaying a drop-down list selection button on the screen of the display device only if the counting produces a value greater than zero" is not disclosed), and claim 21 (at least the feature "a drop-down list selection button displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion only when the memory contains at least one previously entered free-form text entry" is not disclosed). It should be noted the above referenced claims – 2, 8 and 21 – describe the coupling of input features and the list viewing features. To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. MPEP § 2143.03.

4. Appellants' Response to the Response to Arguments Section

Appellants' previous Response noted that in the Office Action mailed September 30, 2005 the motivation for the proposed combination of MS Word and PowerBuilder 6 is taken from the present application. In response, the Examiner in the Office Action

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states:

But so long as it [judgment of obviousness] takes into account only knowledge which was with the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the Appellant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper.

Office Action at page 7.

As stated previously, it is submitted again that the Office Actions to date do not propose a motivation for making the combination. Appellants reemphasize that the initial burden is on the Examiner to provide some suggestion of the desirability of doing what the inventor has done. "To support the conclusion that the claimed invention is directed to obvious subject matter, either the references must expressly or impliedly suggest the claimed invention or the examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references." MPEP §2142.

The present Office Action identifies no express or implied teaching in the references to make the proposed combination. Moreover, the Office Action does not provide a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to be obvious. It merely allegedly identifies pieces of the present claims in two different references (as noted previously, Appellants do not agree that the references show all said pieces), and states that it would have been obvious to make the combination "in order to provide a visible indication that the control is usable." (Office Action at page 5).

Nothing in the references, alone or in combination, suggests a motivation to combine text entry features with text viewing features in one free-form text entry dialog

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box. The references do not recognize that there is a problem with the combination box that is explicitly taught in cited MS Word FIGURES 5-7. MS Word certainly does not recognize the problem of confusion – it employs precisely the type of combination box that can confuse novice users. PowerBuilder 6 does not recognize the problem – although it provides selectively displayed selectors for viewing lists, neither of the two selectively displayed selectors cited in the Office Action are directed toward alleviating the source of confusion addressed by the present application. The references cannot motivate making a combination to solve a problem that is not recognized in any of the references.

Because the Office Action does not provide a motivation for making the combination and none of the art applied recognizes the problem solved by the present application, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made. Accordingly, Appellants have no duty to present rebuttal evidence supporting patentability.

Nonetheless, Appellants note that such rebuttal evidence exists. Appellants reemphasize that the references themselves teach away from the proposed combination. It is improper to combine references where the references teach away from their combination. MPEP § 2145, citing *In re Grasselli*, 713 F.2d 731, 743, 218 USPQ 769, 779 (Fed. Cir. 1983). A prima facie case of obvious may be rebutted by showing that the art, in any material respect, teaches away from the claimed invention. MPEP § 2144.05, citing *In re Geisler*, 116 F.3d 1465, 1471, 43 USPQ2d 1362, 1366 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Here, the MS Word reference clearly teaches away from the claims of the present application. MS Word discloses precisely the type of prior art combination box

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which the present application recognizes as confusing. But, MS Word does not recognize it as confusing – rather, MS Word employs that very combination box in a widely sold commercial word processing package. The skilled artisan considering MS Word would likely conclude that this combination box is entirely adequate, and would not be motivated to consider attempting to improve the dialog box.

Moreover, the level of skill in the art should be considered. "The importance of resolving the level of ordinary skill in the art lies in the necessity of maintaining objectivity in the obviousness inquiry." MPEP § 2141.03. In considering the present application, the skilled artisan is likely to be someone with at least some familiarity with computers and GUI interfaces.

As argued by Appellants in the previous Response of December 30, 2005, the relatively high level of computer skills of the ordinary artisan further rebuts a finding of obviousness of the present application. It should be noted that this argument was not countered in the present Office Action. An insight of the present application is that a novice user, who is far removed from the level of the ordinary skilled artisan in the computer software arts, might find the dialog box of MS Word FIGURES 5-7 confusing. The skilled artisan's familiarity with computers and GUI interfaces makes it difficult for the skilled artisan to recognize the potential for confusion on the part of the novice user. Additionally, the advantages provided by the present application are directed to enhancing the usability of GUI interfaces by providing an improved text entry box that conveys to novice users that text entry can be performed; and, in the event that previous text entries are available, a drop down arrow is included to enable selection of the previous entries.

The cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or fairly

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suggest all the elements of the claims of the present application. For example, the cited references alone or in combination do not disclose or fairly suggest the element of claim 21 that a drop-down list selection button be displayed in conjunction with a free-form text entry portion only when a memory contains at least one previously entered free-form text entry. Stated another way, the cited references do not disclose or fairly suggest a drop-down list selection feature coupled with a free-form text entry feature.

Moreover, Appellants reassert that the proposed combination of MS Word and PowerBuilder appears to improperly employ the rejected claims as a blueprint for abstracting alleged individual teachings from the references. See *Ashland Oil, Inc. v. Delta Resins & Refractories, Inc.*, 227 U.S.P.Q. 657 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Having abstracted the individual teachings, the Office Action then cites a motivation set forth only in the present application, and not in the references. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination must be found in the prior art, not in Appellant's disclosure. MPEP § 2143, citing *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

In view of the foregoing remarks, Appellants respectfully request that the application be reconsidered and all pending claims be allowed.

B. Claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22 Would Not Have Been Obvious Over MS Word in View of PowerBuilder 6

1. Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7:

Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 are directed to a text entry dialog box system for use with a display device, data input means including pointing means, and processor means for executing an application program, and that displays on a screen of said display device

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a dialog box into which an associated user enters data during execution of said application program. The text entry dialog box system as recited in independent claim 2 comprises a text entry space in a dialog box displayed on said screen of the display device for free-form entry of text items into the system by the associated user; a memory for storing previously entered text items which were previously entered into the text entry space by the associated user; means for selectively displaying a selection button on the screen of the display device in association with the dialog box for selection by the pointing means, the selection button being displayed solely when the memory contains at least one previously entered text item; and means for displaying a list of the previously entered text items stored in the memory responsive to selection of the selection button by the associated user.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the art of record teaches, suggests, or fairly discloses, alone or in combination, a text entry dialog box system of the type described above including a selection button being displayed solely when the memory contains at least one previously entered text item.

a. Claim 3:

Claim 3 recites the text entry dialog box system according to claim 2, further comprising a parser for parsing the text items as parsed text items prior to storage in the memory, and means for selectively storing the parsed text items in said memory based on the parsed text item containing at least one character.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the art of record teaches, suggests, or fairly discloses, alone or in combination, a text entry dialog box system of the type described above including a parser for parsing the text items as parsed text items prior

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to storage in the memory, and means for selectively storing the parsed text items in said memory based on the parsed text item containing at least one character. The Office Action at page 5 rejects this claim based on the recital at PowerBuilder page 2 of "Sorted: If Sorted is checked, the items will be sorted." Appellants respectfully submit that a sorter does not disclose or fairly suggest a parser. A sorter sorts items, for example by alphabetical order, numeric order, or so forth. A parser parses text, for example by removing extraneous white space. Moreover, nothing in the cited section of PowerBuilder remotely suggests the selective storing means called out in claim 3.

b. Claim 6:

Claim 6 recites the text entry dialog box system according to claim 2, wherein the selection button is a drop-down arrow button on the screen of the display device displayed in association with the dialog box, and the list of previously entered text items is a drop-down list on the screen of the display device displayed in association with the dialog box.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the art of record teaches, suggests, or fairly discloses, alone or in combination, a text entry dialog box system of the type described above wherein the selection button is a drop-down arrow button on the screen of the display device displayed in association with the dialog box, and wherein the list of previously entered text items is a drop-down list on the screen of the display device displayed in association with the dialog box.

c. Claim 7:

Claim 7 recites the text entry dialog box system according to claim 3, further including means for initializing the memory as empty each time the associated window is started.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the art of record teaches, suggests, or fairly discloses, alone or in combination, a text entry dialog box system of the type described above and including means for initializing the memory as empty each time the associated window is started. The Office Action at page 5 rejects this claim based on MS Word FIGURE 2. MS Word FIGURE 2 does not show a dropdown list or other memory-suggestive item. Appellants therefore assume that MS Word FIGURE 4 was intended. As noted previously, the memory associated with the dropdown list of MS Word FIGURE 4 stores a list of reviewer's names, not a list of text entries previously entered into the free-form text entry portion. Moreover, Appellants do not find that this memory is initialized as empty each time the associated window is started. Rather, each time Appellants start the associated window, the same list of reviewers is accessed.

2. Claims 8, 11-13, 15, and 16:

Claims 8, 11-13, 15, and 16 are directed to a computer implemented method for facilitating input of text by an associated user using a dialog box on a screen of a display device that is connected to said computer. The method recited in independent claim 8 comprises: (i) initializing a memory as empty; (ii) displaying a text entry section of a dialog box on the screen of the display device; (iii) counting entries stored

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previously in the memory; (iv) displaying a drop-down list selection button on the screen of the display device only if the counting produces a value greater than zero; (v) receiving a typed text entry from the associated user via the text entry section of the dialog box; (vi) updating the memory by adding a new entry corresponding to the typed text entry; and (vii) repeating the displaying (ii), counting (iii), and displaying (iv) at least once.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the art of record teaches, suggests, or fairly discloses, alone or in combination, a computer implemented method for facilitating input of text including displaying a drop-down list selection button on the screen of the display device only if the counting produces a value greater than zero.

a. Claim 11:

Claim 11 recites the method according to claim 8, further including performing a list selection routine responsive to user selection of the drop-down list selection button.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the art of record teaches, suggests, or fairly discloses, alone or in combination, a computer implemented method for facilitating input of text including performing a list selection routine responsive to user selection of the drop-down list selection button.

b. Claim 12:

Claim 12 recites the method according to claim 8, wherein the counting (iii) includes counting previously accepted typed text entries which contain at least one character.

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It is respectfully submitted that none of the art of record teaches, suggests, or fairly discloses, alone or in combination, a computer implemented method for facilitating input of text wherein the counting includes counting previously accepted typed text entries which contain at least one character.

c. Claim 13:

Claim 13 recites the method according to claim 11, wherein the performing of the list selection routine includes displaying a list of the memory entries; and accepting user selection of an entry from the displayed list of the memory entries.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the art of record teaches, suggests, or fairly discloses, alone or in combination, a computer implemented method for facilitating input of text including displaying a list of the memory entries; and accepting user selection of an entry from the displayed list of the memory entries.

d. Claim 15:

Claim 15 recites the method according to claim 8, wherein the step of displaying the drop-down list selection button includes displaying a drop-down arrow button on the screen of the display device in association with the dialog box.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the art of record teaches, suggests, or fairly discloses, alone or in combination, a computer implemented method for facilitating input of text including displaying a drop-down arrow button on the screen of the display device in association with the dialog box.

e. Claim 16:

Claim 16 recites the method according to claim 8, further including parsing the received text entry, the parsed text entry being stored in the memory by the updating.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the art of record teaches, suggests, or fairly discloses, alone or in combination, a computer implemented method for facilitating input of text including parsing the received text entry, the parsed text entry being stored in the memory by the updating. This claim apparently stands rejected on the same basis as claim 3, i.e. based on the recital at PowerBuilder page 2 of "Sorted: If Sorted is checked, the items will be sorted." Appellants again respectfully submit that a sorter does not fairly suggest a parser, and submit that neither MS Word nor PowerBuilder 6 disclose or fairly suggest storing a parsed text entry in a memory.

3. Claims 21 and 22:

Claims 21 and 22 are directed to a graphical user interface text input dialog system. The interface text dialog as recited in independent claim 21 comprises a free-form text entry portion displayed on an associated display device for receiving a free-form text entry from an associated user; a memory storing free-form text entries previously entered by the associated user into the free-form text entry portion; a drop-down list selection button displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion only when the memory contains at least one previously entered free-form text entry; and a drop-down selection list portion displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion responsive to activation by the associated user of the drop-down list

selection button, the drop-down selection list portion listing the previously entered free-form text entries stored in the memory for selection by the associated user.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the art of record teaches, suggests, or fairly discloses, alone or in combination, a drop-down list selection button displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion only when the memory contains at least one previously entered free-form text entry. MS Word FIGURE 4 does not disclose or fairly suggest a memory storing free-form text entries previously entered by the associated user into a free-form text entry portion. The only memory that can be inferred from FIGURE 4 is a memory storing a list of reviewer's names. The reviewer's names are generated by MS Word as reviewers modify the document using the TRACKED CHANGES option of MS Word, or when reviewers enter comments, or so forth. The reviewer's names do not correspond to free-form text entries previously entered by the associated user into a free-form text entry portion.

None of MS Word, PowerBuilder 6, or their combination, disclose or fairly suggest a drop-down list selection button displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion only when the memory contains at least one previously entered free-form text entry. PowerBuilder does disclose "smart visibility features". However, neither MS Word nor PowerBuilder recognize the non-intuitiveness of displaying of a drop-down list selection button when the memory contains no previously entered free-form text entry. Without this recognition, there is no motivation to employ selective display of the drop-down list selection button as called for in claim 21.

Still further, none of MS Word, PowerBuilder 6, or their combination, disclose or fairly suggest the drop-down selection list portion listing the previously entered free-form text entries stored in the memory for selection by the associated user also

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called for in claim 21. The dropdown list of MS Word FIGURE 4 lists reviewers, not previously entered free-form text entries. PowerBuilder 6 discloses a dropdown list, but does not disclose or fairly suggest a dropdown list portion listing previously entered free-form text entries stored in a memory for selection by the associated user.

a. Claim 22:

Claim 22 recites the graphical user interface text input dialog as set forth in claim 21, wherein the drop-down list selection button includes a down-arrow displayed adjacent the free-form text entry portion.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the art of record teaches, suggests, or fairly discloses, alone or in combination, a graphical user interface text input dialog system of the type described above and including a down-arrow displayed adjacent the free-form text entry portion.

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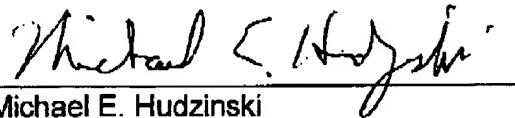
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CONCLUSION

For all of the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections are in error and that claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22 are in condition for allowance. For all of the above reasons, Appellants respectfully request this Honorable Board to reverse the rejections of claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDICES

VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

Claims involved in the Appeal are as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously presented) A text entry dialog box system for use with a display device, data input means including pointing means, and processor means for executing an application program, and that displays on a screen of said display device a dialog box into which an associated user enters data during execution of said application program, said text entry dialog box system comprising:

a text entry space in a dialog box displayed on said screen of the display device for free-form entry of text items into the system by the associated user;

a memory for storing previously entered text items which were previously entered into the text entry space by the associated user;

means for selectively displaying a selection button on the screen of the display device in association with the dialog box for selection by the pointing means, the selection button being displayed solely when the memory contains at least one previously entered text item; and

means for displaying a list of the previously entered text items stored in the memory responsive to selection of the selection button by the associated user.

3. (Original) The text entry dialog box system according to claim 2, further comprising:

a parser for parsing the text items as parsed text items prior to storage in the memory; and

means for selectively storing the parsed text items in said memory based on the parsed text item containing at least one character.

4-5. (Canceled)

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6. (Previously presented) The text entry dialog box system according to claim 2, wherein:

the selection button is a drop-down arrow button on the screen of the display device displayed in association with the dialog box; and

the list of previously entered text items is a drop-down list on the screen of the display device displayed in association with the dialog box.

7. (Original) The text entry dialog box system according to claim 3, further including:

means for initializing the memory as empty each time the associated window is started.

8. (Previously presented) A computer implemented method for facilitating input of text by an associated user using a dialog box on a screen of a display device that is connected to said computer, the method comprising:

- (i) initializing a memory as empty;
- (ii) displaying a text entry section of a dialog box on the screen of the display device;
- (iii) counting entries stored previously in the memory;
- (iv) displaying a drop-down list selection button on the screen of the display device only if the counting produces a value greater than zero;
- (v) receiving a typed text entry from the associated user via the text entry section of the dialog box;
- (vi) updating the memory by adding a new entry corresponding to the typed text entry; and
- (vii) repeating the displaying (ii), counting (iii), and displaying (iv) at least once.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, further including:

performing a list selection routine responsive to user selection of the drop-down list selection button.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein:
the counting (iii) includes counting previously accepted typed text entries which contain at least one character.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the performing of the list selection routine includes:
displaying a list of the memory entries; and
accepting user selection of an entry from the displayed list of the memory entries.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of displaying the drop-down list selection button includes:
displaying a drop-down arrow button on the screen of the display device in association with the dialog box.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, further including:
parsing the received text entry, the parsed text entry being stored in the memory by the updating.

17-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) A graphical user interface text input dialog including:
a free-form text entry portion displayed on an associated display device for receiving a free-form text entry from an associated user;

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a memory storing free-form text entries previously entered by the associated user into the free-form text entry portion;

a drop-down list selection button displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion only when the memory contains at least one previously entered free-form text entry; and

a drop-down selection list portion displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion responsive to activation by the associated user of the drop-down list selection button, the drop-down selection list portion listing the previously entered free-form text entries stored in the memory for selection by the associated user.

22. (Previously presented) The graphical user interface text input dialog as set forth in claim 21, wherein the drop-down list selection button includes:

a down-arrow displayed adjacent the free-form text entry portion.

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IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

A copy of each of the following items of evidence relied on by the Appellant
[and/or the Examiner] is attached:

NONE

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X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

NONE

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